

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: CPC 18TH SESSION FIRST PART -
REPORT OF THE ACC. USDEL REPORT #6 A

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) DISCUSSED AGENDA ITEMS 6 (HARMONIZATION OF PROGRAM BUDGETS AND MEDIUM-TERM PLANS) AND 7 (REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION) TOGETHER ON MAY 26, MAY 30, AND JUNE 2. END SUMMARY

2. THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE REPORT OF THE ACC (E/1978/43 AND ADDS. 1 AND 2) WERE INTRODUCED BY USYG FOR INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS AND COORDINATION C.V. NARASIMHAN, USYG FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS JEAN RIPERT, AND SECRETARY OF THE ACC FREDERICK LISTER.

3. THE BASIC REPORT OF THE ACC ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR 1977-78, A SURVEY OF UN ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS PROGRAM FIELDS, WAS GIVEN SCANT ATTENTION. ADD. 2, THE ACC STATEMENT ON HARMONIZATION OF PROGRAM BUDGETS AND MEDIUM-TERM PLANS (MTP) WAS CONSIDERED FIRST.

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4. US (STIBRAVY) WELCOMED THE PROGRESS IN ACC ON HARMONIZATION AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH TO SYSTEM-WIDE BUDGETING PROPOSED IN PARAS 14-28. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TABLES PROPOSED IN PARAS 17 AND 18 SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE (A) NONRECURRING ITEMS; (B) DATA ON OVERALL INFLATION FACTOR AS WELL AS THE INFLATION FACTOR AND CURRENCY FLUCTUATION, BY MAJOR PROGRAM,

FOR PRIOR AND CURRENT BUDGET; AND (C) THE SOURCE OF ANTICIPATED EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS. US ALSO NOTED IMPORTANCE OF ACC OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS UP TO GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE HOW FAR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS GOVERNING BODIES SHOULD PRESS OR HARMONIZATION, STATING THAT THIS WAS A MATTER TO WHICH USG WOULD GIVE CONTINUED ATTENTION. HE ALSO WELCOMED INTENTION TO KEEP GOVERNING BODIES OF THE AGENCIES INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE AREA OF HARMONIZATION. RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEMS AND RESTRAINTS POINTED OUT IN THE STATEMENT, US AGREED THAT THE COMPENDIUM OF BUDGET INTRODUCTIONS (E/AC.51/89) DIDN'T PROVIDE A USEFUL INSTRUMENT FOR PROGRAM HARMONIZATION AND WELCOMED THE ACC'S PROPOSAL (PARA 39) FOR A SPECIAL OVERVIEW REPORT.

5. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS ON THE USEFULNESS OF THE ACC PROPOSALS, AND THE LACK OF UTILITY OF THE COMPENDIUM. THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH FINANCIAL DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN MTPS WITH BELGIUM WANTING TO SEE MORE INCLUDED AND FRANCE OPPOSING ANY INCLUSION OF SUCH DATA.

6. BYELORUSSIA EXPRESSED ALARM THAT THE PROCESS OF HARMONIZATION WOULD SERVE ONLY TO OBSCURE THE SITUATION AND PREVENT THE CPC FROM EXPOSING DUPLICATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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INADEQUACIES. BYELORUSSIA ALSO OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF ANY INFLATION FACTORS. ASSERTING THAT INFLATION DID NOT OCCUR IN ALL COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE PAID FOR BY ALL, IT DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO RAISE THE QUESTION AGAIN AT THE NEXT CPC SESSION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. CONSIDERABLE DEBATE CENTERED ON THE ACC-PROPOSED 6-YEAR FIXED HORIZON FOR THE MTP, WITH MOST MEMBERS WHO SPOKE (FRANCE, INDIA, CANADA, BYELORUSSIA, ARGENTINA) SAYING IT WAS TOO LONG A PERIOD AND QUESTIONING HOW IT HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT. IN RESPONSE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO (WEST), CHAIRMAN OF THE ACC GROUP THAT DREW UP THE PAPER, SAID THE 6-YEAR FIXED HORIZON EVOLVED FROM SUGGESTIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF 14 IN 1967. FURTHER, (A) MOST OF THE AGENCIES THAT ALREADY HAD MTPS USED THAT TIME FRAME AND IT WAS EASIER FOR OTHERS TO JOIN THAN FOR THEM TO CHANGE; (B) CONDITIONS DIDN'T CHANGE ALL THAT MUCH OVER 6 YEARS, AND AIMS AND APPROACHES WERE RELATIVELY CONSISTENT; AND (C) PRODUCTION OF THE MTP REQUIRED ENORMOUS TIME AND EFFORT FOR ITS USEFULNESS AND SO

ONCE EVERY 6 YEARS--SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENTS AS
NECESSARY--SEEMED SUFFICIENT.

8. WITH RESPECT TO THE ACC'S REPORT ON LONG-TERM
DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (ADD. 1), THE CHAIRMAN (DENMARK)
SOUGHT TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO ENDORSEMENT OF IT AS A
BACKGROUND FOR THE SUMMER JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE
ACC. PRIMARILY AT THE INSISTENCE OF PAKISTAN, HOWEVER,
A FULLER DISCUSSION ENSUED.

9. BELGIUM EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE FORMULA
ADOPTED BY THE TASK FORCE FOR ITS WORK AND PARTICULARLY
REGRETTED THE STATEMENT IN PARA 21 THAT THE ACC HAD
DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM SUGGESTING ANY OVERALL
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PLAN FOR ITS WORK, NOTING THAT IF THE ACC DID NOT MAKE
ANY PROPOSALS NO ONE ELSE WOULD. IN REPLY, USYG RIPERT

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NOTED THAT THE TASK FORCE HAD JUST GOTTEN UNDER WAY
AND WAS TRYING TO BE EMPIRICAL AND FLEXIBLE. HE
AGREED THAT IT SHOULD PUT PROPOSALS TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL
BODIES, BUT REAFFIRMED IT WAS NOT THE TASK FORCE'S
ROLE TO COME UP WITH AN OVERALL STRATEGY.

10. US NOTED THAT ONE OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT WAS THAT INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE A SINGLE MODEL FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE ACC RECOGNIZED THE LIMITS OF PURELY ECONOMIC MODELS. US FURTHER NOTED THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOME 250 DIFFERENT GOALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR DD II AND SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTIONS, AND SAID THIS HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR CAREFUL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES IN FUTURE STRATEGIES. US EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE RECOGNITION IN PARA 26 (C) OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE TASK FORCE'S WORK PROGRAM. ENDORSING THE ACC'S ADHERENCE TO ITS ROLE OF A COORDINATING AND ADVISORY BODY, INSTEAD OF TAKING ON TASKS APPROPRIATELY BELONGING TO UN POLICY-MAKING ORGANS, WHICH RIPERT HAD ALSO STRESSED IN HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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INTRODUCTION, US SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED VIEW IN PARA 21 THAT THE TASK FORCE SHOULD MOBILIZE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES RATHER THAN ITSELF ENGAGE IN GENERAL DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH.

11. PAKISTAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE TASK FORCE WAS NOT ENCOMPASSING ALL THE APPROPRIATE DECISIONS OF THE VARIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND THOUGHT THAT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, PARA 16 ENUMERATED MORE FULLY THE NEW ELEMENTS THAT HAD EMERGED IN THE 1970'S THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES. AGREED WITH THE US VIEW THAT THE APPROACH IN PARA 21 WAS THE CORRECT ONE, AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROGRAM REPRESENTED JUST A FIRST STEP TOWARD GREATER HARMONIZATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS. PAKISTAN ALSO COMMENTED ON MANY OF THE PARAGRAPHS, ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION OR ELABORATION, AND GENERALLY GIVING NOTICE THAT IT INTENDED TO GO INTO THE SUBJECT MORE FULLY AT THE JOINT MEETINGS. RIPERT ASSURED PAKISTAN THAT THE WORK UNDERTAKEN WOULD NOT PREJUDICE ANY GA POLITICAL DECISIONS.

12. ARGENTINA, UNITED KINGDOM, AND USSR ALL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COMMENTING AT SOME LENGTH AT THE JOINT CPC/ACC MEETINGS. YOUNG

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